

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

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|   |  |  |                       |
|---|--|--|-----------------------|
| Applicant's or agent's file reference<br>P407B/PCT  | <b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>                                      |  | See Form PCT/IPEA/416 |
| International application No.<br>PCT/AU2004/001649  | International filing date (day/month/year)<br>28 November 2004 | Priority date (day/month/year)<br>28 November 2003 |                       |
| International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC<br>Int. Cl. 7 A63F 13/10 |  |  |                       |
| Applicant<br>CASTELLANI, Mario  |  |  |                       |

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a.  (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of sheets, as follows:

sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b.  (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) , containing a sequence listing and/or table related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I | Basis of the report   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II           | Priority  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III          | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV           | Lack of unity of invention  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI           | Certain documents cited   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII          | Certain defects in the international application  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII         | Certain observations on the international application   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Date of submission of the demand<br>27 June 2005  | Date of completion of the report<br>8 November 2005                    |
| Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU<br>AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE<br>PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA<br>E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au<br>Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929 | Authorized Officer<br><br>J.W. THOMSON<br>Telephone No. (02) 6283 2214 |

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/001649

## Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1 (b))

publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)

international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

the international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:

pages as originally filed/furnished

pages\* received by this Authority on with the letter of

pages\* received by this Authority on with the letter of

the claims:

pages as originally filed/furnished

pages\* as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages\* received by this Authority on with the letter of

pages\* received by this Authority on with the letter of

the drawings:

pages as originally filed/furnished

pages\* received by this Authority on with the letter of

pages\* received by this Authority on with the letter of

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages

the claims, Nos.

the drawings, sheets/figs

the sequence listing (*specify*):

any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

4.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages

the claims, Nos.

the drawings, sheets/figs

the sequence listing (*specify*):

any table(s) related to the sequence listing (*specify*):

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/AU2004/001649

**Box No. V** · Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

## 1. Statement

|                               |                |     |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----|
| Novelty (N)                   | Claims         | YES |
|                               | Claims 1 to 41 | NO  |
| Inventive step (IS)           | Claims         | YES |
|                               | Claims 1 to 41 | NO  |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims 1 to 41 | YES |
|                               | Claims         | NO  |

## 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Citations

D1:JP 2002-045504 A (Sankyo) 12 February 2002

D2:GB 2340007 A (Lee) 9 February 2000

D3:EP 1148443 B1 (Sony Computer Entertainment Inc.) 24 October 2001

D4:JP 2000-014932 A (Sega Enterprise Ltd) 18 January 2000

D4 is cited as an 'A' document in the ISR and is hence not further discussed.

Novelty (N) of Claims 1 to 41

Claims 1 to 41 are not novel when compared to D1 which teaches all of the essential features of the claimed invention.

Inventive Step (IS) of Claims 1 to 41

Claims 1 to 41 lack an inventive step when compared to prior art document D1 as it resolves a similar problem.

Claims 1 to 24 and 32 to 41 lack an inventive step when compared to prior art documents D2 to D3 as each of these documents teach the morphing of a shape with three dimensions to two dimensions, wherein the 'faces' of the three dimensional shape are maintained. The difference between the claimed invention and the citations is that in the former the use resides in a game. This is still within the discipline of software, and so a person skilled in the art would directly and without difficulty, by routine steps, conceive of applying the same teachings in a game as a matter of increasing the appeal of the presentation to a consumer.

Industrial Applicability (IA) of Claims 1 to 41

The claimed invention has industrial applicability in the field of poker machines.